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ABSTRACT

This book emphasizes the reading process by suggesting effective ways to read with children, to engage children as thinkers, and to model the processes of studying a text. The book's "story stretchers" are a means to extend children's enthusiasm for stories and to better connect children's books and teaching ideas with other areas of the curriculum. The book incorporates more children's books that focus on science, environmental issues, ecosystems, endangered species; more books suitable for multicultural and social studies; and more books related to literature studies. It contains 18 units or themes with 5 focus books per unit. Each focus book has read-aloud suggestions for the book and 5 story stretchers per book, for a total of 90 read-aloud suggestions and 450 story stretchers for 90 different children's books. For each of the book's 18 themes, the books selected are "stretched" into different centers, activities and areas of the curriculum, including art, creative dramatics, games, classroom library, mathematics, music and movement, science and nature, special projects, special events and the writing center. The units, or themes, are as follows: (1) Self Esteem; (2) Abilities and talents; (3) Friends; (4) Families; (5) Family Stories from the Past; (6) Neighborhoods; (7) Endangered Animals; (8) Oceans; (9) Ponds, Lakes, Rivers, and Swamps; (10) Rainforests and Trees; (11) Deserts; (12) Native American Stories; (13) Folktales from around the World; (14) Fantasy and Fantastic Tales; (15) Poetry; (16) Author Study--Eloise Greenfield; (17) Author Study--Bill Peet; and (18) Famous Characters in a Series. (RS)

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